

ENF Environmental Notification Form

EOEA No.: 12961
 MEPA Analyst: Nick ZAVOLAS
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The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Route 2 Reconstruction at Concord Rotary		
Street: Route 2 at Concord Rotary		
Municipality: Concord	Watershed: Boston Harbor	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19 302010E 4704476N to 303777E 4703277	Latitude: 42.4693° N to 42.4640°	Longitude: 71.4083° W 71.3880°
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2007	Estimated completion date: Summer 2009	
Approximate cost: \$ 12 million	Status of project design: 5% complete	
Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department		
Street: 10 Park Plaza		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Thomas Hession		
Firm/Agency: MassHighway	Street: 10 Park Plaza – Room 4260	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: (617) 973-7498	Fax: (617) 973-8879	E-mail: Thomas.Hession@state.ma.us

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

MassHighway and FHWA construction funding

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify FHWA - EA) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:
Order of Conditions, Concord Conservation Commission; Section 401 Permit, Massachusetts Department of environmental Protection; Section 404 Permit, U.S. ACOE; NEPA Environmental Assessment, FHWA; Section 106 Review, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	32.1 Acres			
New acres of land altered		8.6 to 12.3 Acres		
Acres of impervious area	12.2 Acres	0.6 to 5.3 Acres	12.8 to 17.5 Acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		1,250 to 6,100 sf		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		34,000 to 38,500 sf Riverfront Area		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None		
STRUCTURES				<u>Wetlands Protection Act Variance</u>
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				<u>Article 97 Approval</u>
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	Route 2 at Concord Rotary 50,000	0	Route 2 at Concord Rotary 50,000	
Parking spaces				
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify Agricultural Land of the Commonwealth) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species,

or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify West Concord Reformatory Historic Area) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative.

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is proposing transportation improvements to Route 2 at the Concord Rotary in Concord (See Figure 1). The purpose of the project is to improve the operating efficiency and safety of Route 2 within the project area.

The Concord Rotary is at the confluence of Route 2, Route 2A/Route 119, Barrett's Mill Road and Commonwealth Avenue. The rotary suffers from high accident rates and congestion, especially during the morning and evening peak periods. During the three-year period of 1998 through 2000, there were approximately 300 reported accidents at the Concord Rotary, including 60 involving injuries.

The rotary operates inefficiently for several reasons. An unbalanced flow often exists within the rotary because a disproportionate number of vehicles enter from Route 2 (50,000 of the 90,000 vehicles daily) than from the other three legs and the small radius of the rotary results in short weaving distances between legs that cause constant driver conflicts and confusion.

As a result, MassHighway and the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization's Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), undertook the *Route 2 Improvements Feasibility Study* to examine congestion and safety issues within the Concord Rotary area. A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was used to provide guidance to MassHighway and CTPS during the study process. The CAC was comprised of members of Concord, Acton, and Lincoln's Selectman's Offices, State Senators Fargo and Resor, State Representatives Kaufman and Atkins, representatives from the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Correctional Institute, the Executive Office of Public Safety and local citizens (See Attachment 1).

MassHighway and CTPS prepared a number of alternative designs and presented them to the CAC at its quarterly meetings. These alternative designs underwent changes and further refinement after input from the CAC. While the CAC did not reach a consensus on a preferred design alternative, the CAC and MassHighway generally agreed that Alternatives #3, #5 and #7 provided the most effective traffic operations with the least disturbance of natural and cultural resources. These alternatives are being brought forward in this ENF for further study.

As depicted on Figures 2, 3, and 4 all alternatives involve the replacement of the Concord Rotary with a highway interchange and provide an additional westbound travel lane on Route 2 for one-half mile approaching the proposed interchange. An interchange will improve the safety and efficiency of Route 2 in this area by separating Route 2 through traffic from vehicles exiting to, or

entering from, Route 2A/119, Commonwealth Avenue or Barrett's Mill Road. The proposed alternatives represent three interchange configuration options.

Alternative 3 (Figure 2) is a diamond-shaped interchange that would provide a bridge over Route 2 connecting Commonwealth Avenue to Route 2A/119 while allowing Route 2 through traffic to continue unimpeded. Commonwealth Avenue would be relocated to the west side of the MCI Concord employee parking lot. Traffic signals would be installed at exit and entrance ramps.

Alternatives 5 and 7 (Figures 3 and 4, respectively) are a partial cloverleaf interchanges. As in Alternative 3, they provide a bridge over Route 2 connecting relocated Commonwealth Avenue to Route 2A/119. Loop ramps would be constructed in the southwest quadrant of the interchange. Alternative 7 would differ from Alternative 5 by having the Route 2 westbound exit and entrance ramps to Route 2A approximately 1,500 feet further to the west of the proposed bridge over Route 2.

There are several environmental and land use constraints in the Concord Rotary area that would be considered when evaluating alternatives. These constraints include:

- MCI-Concord Prison, including parking lot and cemetery;
- State Police Barracks and MassHighway Maintenance Depot;
- The Northeastern Correctional Center Farmlands;
- Natural resources such as the Assabet River, Warners Pond, Nashoba Brook, areas of bordering vegetated wetland and 100-year floodplain; and
- Historic properties and residential and business property.

Based on the conceptual design, potential impacts to natural resources for Alternatives 3 and 5 would be approximately the same. These impacts include approximately 1,250 square feet of wetland, 5,400 square feet of 100-year floodplain and 34,000 square feet of Riverfront Area. Potential natural resources impacts for Alternative 7 include approximately 6,100 square feet of wetland, 6,500 square feet of 100-year floodplain and 38,500 square feet of Riverfront Area.

Construction of any of the three alternatives requires right-of-way takings from both private and public owners. These takings are predominately partial takings that are a small percentage (less than 10 percent) of the total parcel area, however some complete takings are anticipated. All three alternatives require the taking of land used for farming by the Northeast Correctional Institute. A portion (0.6 acre) of this land is considered *farmland of state or local importance*. A partial land taking may be required from the Dr. John Cuming House, a National Register listed property.

The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Concord Conservation Commission and a Section 404 Programmatic General Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If after the conceptual design is further developed wetland impacts exceed 5,000 square feet, a Variance from the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act will also be required. MassHighway will work closely with these agencies to ensure that environmental impacts are minimized to the greatest extent practicable and mitigated appropriately.

An Environmental Notification Form (ENF) is required for this project pursuant to 11.03 (6)(b)1.b. The project requires the widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles.